

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Franz-Peter KOCH et al.) **Mail Stop Patent Application**
)
Appln. No. : Not yet assigned)
)
Filed : Concurrently herewith)
)
For : METHOD, IN PARTICULAR FOR FEEDING A CIGARETTE STRAND
MACHINE AS WELL AS A DISTRIBUTOR DEVICE, IN PARTICULAR
FOR CARRYING OUT THE METHOD

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. Sections 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, Applicants hereby submit the following documents for the Examiner's consideration:

Applicants submit herewith a copy of a European Search Report dated June 20, 2003 conducted in connection with European Patent Application No. 03 090 021.1-2313, which is a counterpart of the above-captioned application. In particular, the European Examiner cited:

- (1) U.S. Patent No. 4,889,138 issued to HEITMANN et al. December 26, 1989 as an "X" category document (i.e., a document that calls into question of the novelty or inventive step when considered alone). In particular, the European Examiner noted column 5, line 5 - column 6, line 40; and Figure 1 as relevant to claims 1 - 6, 10, 11, and 14 - 16 of the European application;

(2) U.S. Patent No. 4,524,781 issued to SERAGNOLI June 25, 1985 as an "X" category document. In particular, the European Examiner noted column 3, lines 35 - 65; column 4, lines 19 - 23; and Figure 1 as pertinent to claims 1 - 5, 10, 11, 13, 19, and 20 of the European application;

(3) U.S. Patent No. 5,009,238 issued to HEITMANN April 23, 1991 as an "A" category document (i.e., technological background). The European Examiner noted the abstract and drawings as relevant to claims 1 and 10 of the European application; and

(4) U.S. Patent No. 4,607,645 issued to OKUMOTO et al. August 26, 1986 as an "A" category document. In particular, the European Examiner noted column 2, line 56 - column 4, line 8; and Figure 2 as pertinent to claims 1 - 22 of the European application.

Applicants further note that the following document is being submitted for consideration by the Examiner:

(5) German Patent Application No. 40 35 937 published May 29, 1991.

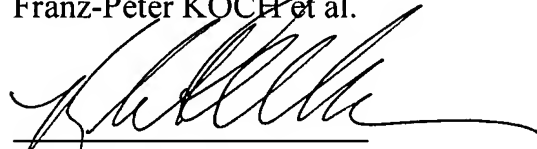
Each of the above-cited documents are listed on the enclosed completed copy of the PTO-1449 Form. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to consider these documents and to indicate such consideration by returning a signed and initialed copy of the PTO-1449 Form with the first official communication.

Moreover, copies of the European Search Report and of the cited non-U.S. patent document are being submitted herewith. However, pursuant to the U.S. Patent and

Trademark Office's decision to waive the requirement under 37 C.F.R 1.98 (a)(2)(i), a copy of the cited/listed U.S. patent is not enclosed herewith. Moreover, if any copies are needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Should there be any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Franz-Peter KOCH et al.


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Form PTO-1449	U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office	Atty. Docket No. P24670	Serial No. Not Yet Assigned
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)		Applicant Franz-Peter KOCH et al.	
		Filing Date Concurrently Herewith	Group Not Yet Assigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	4 8 8 9 1 3 8	12/26/89	HEITMANN et al.			
	4 5 2 4 7 8 1	06/25/85	SERAGNOLI			
	5 0 0 9 2 3 8	04/23/91	HEITMANN			
	4 6 0 7 6 4 5	08/26/86	OKUMOTO et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
4 0 3 5 9 3 7	05/29/91	GERMANY			

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.